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Committee meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts
at the
Century Club, New York City
on
Thursday, August 30, 1917.

A committee meeting of members of the Commission to consider the working drawings for the new Key Bridge to replace the Aqueduct Bridge across the Potomac, and a further study of the Meade memorial to be located in the Botanic Garden area took place at 1:30 o'clock p.m., at the Century Club, New York City, on Thursday, August 30, 1917. Mr. Adams and Mr. Weir were present as a committee on the Meade memorial, and Mr. Hastings, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Moore as a committee on the Key Bridge plans. Colonel Harts, the Secretary, accompanied by Mr. Cammerer, his assistant, also was present with maps and other data for the assistance of the members. Mr. Cass Gilbert, Mr. Peirce Anderson, and Mr. Edwin H. Blashfield, former members of the Commission, who had joined the members at lunch at the club, remained throughout the meeting, as did Mr. Henry M. Shrady, the sculptor of the Grant Memorial.

M. Shady, the sculptor of the Grant Memorial.

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Mr. Hastings, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Moore as a committee on the Key Bridge

Adams and Mr. Weir were present as a committee on the Webb Memorial, and

at the Century Club, New York City, on Thursday, August 30, 1917. Mr.

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Bridge across the Potomac, and a further study of the Webb Memorial

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A committee meeting of members of the Commission to consider

Committee meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts
at the
Century Club, New York City
on
Thursday, August 30, 1917.

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MEADE MEMORIAL:

The model before the meeting showed a composition circular in form,

By appointment, Mr. Frank Miles Day, architect of Philadelphia, and vertical. The figure of Meade, to face the south on a pedestal is Mr. Charles Grafly, sculptor, and Mr. Grant Simon of the firm of architects of Simon and Bassett of Philadelphia, were before the Commission mounted by an eagle. The sculptor said it was his intention to make the on behalf of the Meade Memorial Commission.

eagle of bronze, the square base of the monument of granite, and the other

For the benefit of those who might not have been closely in parts of Knoxville marble. The memorial was to be six feet lower than the touch with the progress of the work, Mr. Day briefly reviewed his con- Grant memorial. Mr. Day then requested the decision of the Commission as nection with the memorial from the beginning. He reminded the members to whether the sculptor and architect were on the right track.

that at a former meeting it had been decided that the memorial should

After discussion, particularly as to the relation of the vertical be seen from all directions, and to retain Second and Third Streets memorial composition to the Grant memorial and the Capitol, the Commission through the Mall; as the east and west radial lines had been laid down approved the general scheme by the following resolution:

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RESOLVED, That the Commission of Fine Arts approve the general scheme of the Meade Memorial as submitted at this fore became much simpler. Mr. Day stated that the Pennsylvania Legisla-

ture had increased the appropriation to \$150,000, but that the State was

insisting upon the incorporation of a portrait statue in the memorial;

the Governor had even written him that he thought it illegal to use the

on the corners of the square base, change in the position and character

MEMORIAL

By appointment, Mr. Frank Miles Day, architect of Philadelphia,
Mr. Charles Gutzky, sculptor, and Mr. Grant Simon of the firm of archi-
tects of Simon and Bassett of Philadelphia, were before the Commission
on behalf of the Meade Memorial Commission.

For the benefit of those who might not have been closely in-
touch with the progress of the work, Mr. Day briefly reviewed his con-
nection with the memorial from the beginning. He reminded the members
that at a former meeting it had been decided that the memorial should
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ture had increased the appropriation to \$150,000, but that the State was
insisting upon the incorporation of a portrait statue in the memorial;
the Governor had even written him that he thought it illegal to use the

funds unless a portrait statue was included.

The model before the meeting showed a composition circular in form, and vertical. The figure of Meade, to face the south on a pedestal is

disengaged. The drum has sculpture in high relief. The memorial is sur-

mounted by an eagle. The sculptor said it was his intention to make the eagle of bronze, the square base of the monument of granite, and the other parts of Knoxville marble. The memorial was to be six feet lower than the Grant memorial. Mr. Day then requested the decision of the Commission as to whether the sculptor and architect were on the right track.

After discussion, particularly as to the relation of the vertical

memorial composition to the Grant memorial and the Capitol, the Commission approved the general scheme by the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Commission of Fine Arts approve the general scheme of the Meade Memorial as submitted at this meeting, namely, a composition circular in form and vertical.

Certain modifications were discussed with the sculptor, such as the reduction of the relief of the figures on the drum, redesigning the base on which the figure of Meade is placed, elimination of the strong accent on the corners of the square base, change in the position and character

of the top ornament (the eagle), &c, which the sculptor and architect are to study still further and resubmit in modified form to the Commission at the next meeting.

Mr. Day also showed four sketches, marked A, B, C and D, for the location of the memorial and the treatment of the immediate surroundings. The members preferred the treatment shown on the scheme marked A. The architect was also requested to furnish a study at the next meeting showing the relation between the Capitol, the Grant memorial, and the proposed Meade as designed. See Exhibit A.

PLANS FOR KEY BRIDGE:

By command of the Chief of Engineers, U.S.A., the U. S. Engineer officer in charge of the construction of the Key Bridge referred to the Commission two tracings showing the general plan of the Key Bridge across the Potomac, including a detail of a pier, with the request that the Commission indicate their views as clearly and definitely as possible. He added that the architect desired to confine the architectural treatment to the bridge proper, and to minimize the treatment of the approaches.

Mr. Nathan Wyeth, the architect of the bridge, was present in consultation and went over the features of the design with the members. In their scrutiny of the plans the members objected decidedly to the curved upstream slope of the piers over the ice fender as being a line that will detract materially from the artistic effect desired, particularly as there appeared to be no physical reason, ice or any other cause, to necessitate this slope. A break in the vertical line in the angles of this fender as shown in drawing and explained orally to Mr. Wyeth would, they felt, reduce the cost of forms, simplify the construction, and result in a great improvement in the character of the design. Furthermore, they suggested that at the point of impingement of the arches with the piers a slight break of three or four inches should be made to receive the intersection of the arch with the pier. They agreed with the architect that the bridge proper should end with the span over the canal and that the approaches on the Georgetown side should be treated in the simplest possible manner. The Chairman told Mr. Wyeth that, when these changes are made in accordance with the Commission's suggestions, the plans need not be again referred but are approved subject to the modifications. See Exhibit B.

MEMORIAL STONE ON LOT OF CAPTAIN WEED IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY:

The Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, in charge of Arlington Cemetery, had referred a sketch of a design for a monument proposed for erection on the lot of the late Captain Mark D. Weed, Medical Corps, U. S. A., in Arlington Cemetery, with the observation that the monument was within the prescribed dimensions, and that its erection would be permitted unless otherwise recommended by the Commission. The design (a photograph of which is incorporated in the files) showed the monument in the form of a large cross, lying flat on the ground; it was the intention to place a grave in the space below each horizontal arm. Mr. Adams, as the committee on this submission, recommended that the Commission advise the Quartermaster General that the idea of the design might be carried out to an acceptable result by a skillful designer, but they cannot officially approve the design as submitted to them. See Exhibit C.

There being no further business, the committees adjourned sine die.

Approved: Lehman Horn
Chairman.


Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 4, 1917

Dear Mr. Day:

For your information I am transmitting the following resolution adopted by the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting held at the Century Club in New York City last Thursday, August thirtieth:

RESOLVED, That the Commission of Fine Arts approves the general scheme of the Meade Memorial as submitted, namely, a composition circular in form and vertical.

During the conference the Commission indicated to the sculptor and the architect certain modifications in the sketch model, which are to be studied and again submitted.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Frank Miles Day, Esq.,

Ashland, N. H.

ABC

A

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THE COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 4, 1937

Dear Mr. Day:

For your information I am transmitting the following resolution adopted by the Commission on Fine Arts at the meeting held at the Library Club in New York City last Thursday, August 27th:

RESOLVED, That the Commission on Fine Arts approve the general scheme of the Meade Memorial as submitted, namely, a composition of vertical form and vertical.

During the conference the Commission indicated to the sculptor and the architect certain modifications in the design which are to be studied and again submitted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harris

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Wm. W. Harris, Jr.,

Ashland, N. H.

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ABC

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 4, 1917.

Colonel:

In accordance with your request of August twenty-eight, the Commission of Fine Arts in consultation with the architect has given careful consideration to the general plan of the proposed Key Bridge across the Potomac River, and detail of pier, transmitted therewith.

The Commission object decidedly to the curved upstream slope over the ice fender as being a line that will detract materially from the artistic effect desired. There is no physical reason, ice or any other cause, to necessitate this slope. A break in the vertical line in the angles of this fender as shown in drawing and explained orally to the architect would reduce the cost of forms, simplify the construction, and result in a great improvement in the character of the design.

It is suggested further that at the point of impingement of the arches with the piers a slight break of three or four inches be made to receive the intersection of the arch with the pier.

The Commission agrees with the architect that the bridge proper should end with the span over the canal and that the approaches on the Georgetown side should be treated in the simplest possible manner.

When the changes are made in accordance with the Commission's suggestions herewith, the plans need not be again referred to the Commission of Fine Arts but are approved subject to these modifications.

By direction of the Commission:

. Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel W. L. Fisk,
U. S. Army, Retired,
United States Engineer Office,
Room 305, Southern building,
Washington, D. C.

B

THE COMMISSION ON THE ARCH

1725 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 4, 1914.

Colonel:

In accordance with your request of August twenty-first, the Commission of Plans has in consultation with the architect and given careful consideration to the general plan of the proposed bridge across the Potomac River, and details of plan, structural, and artistic.

The Commission objects decidedly to the curved upstream side over the river as being a line that will detract materially from the artistic effect desired. There is no physical reason, line or any other cause, to necessitate this shape. A break in the vertical line in the center of the bridge as shown in drawing and explained orally to the architect would reduce the cost of construction, and result in a great improvement in the character of the design.

It is suggested further that at the point of intersection of the arches with the piers a slight break of lines or form should be made to receive the intersection of the arch with the pier.

The Commission agrees with the architect that the bridge proper should and with the span over the canal and that the approach on the Georgetown side should be treated in the simplest possible manner.

When the drawings are made in accordance with the Commission's suggestions herewith, the plans need not be again referred to the Commission at this time but are approved subject to future modifications.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harris,

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel W. L. Fisk,
U. S. Army, Retired,
United States Engineer Office,
Room 305, Southern Building,
Washington, D. C.

War Department

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UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

Room 305 Southern Building,

Washington, D. C.

September 5, 1917.

August 28, 1917

From: The District Engineer Officer, Washington, D. C.

To: The Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Plans of Key Bridge.

1. By authority of the Chief of Engineers I submit herewith for consideration by the Fine Arts Commission two tracings showing general plan of the Key Bridge across the Potomac River, and detail of pier.

2. I have been directed by the Chief of Engineers to request that "the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission should be asked to cause the views of that commission with regard to the plans to be indicated as clearly and definitely as possible".

3. In his letter submitting the plans the architect states:

"No parapet has been shown on the approach, in accordance with the understanding that, in order to keep the cost within the appropriation, it was desired that the architectural treatment be confined to the bridge proper, and the treatment of the approaches minimized. It is suggested that iron railings or other inexpensive barriers be provided if and where required for the public safety."

(Signed) W. L. Fisk,

Colonel, U. S. Army, Retired.

Two enclosures.

Your No: 293.6-C

3 Encl. ret'd.

C.B.

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War Department

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

Room 305 Southern Building,

Washington, D. C.

August 26, 1917

The District Engineer Officer, Washington, D. C.

From:

The Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D. C.

To:

Subject: Plans of Key Bridge.

The Commission object decidedly to the current upstream slope over the river as being a line that will detract materially from the appearance of the Chief of Engineers I submit herewith for consideration by the Fine Arts Commission two drawings showing a general plan of the Key Bridge across the Potomac River, and a detail of pier. I have been directed by the Chief of Engineers to request that "the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission should be asked to cause the views of that commission with regard to the plans to be indicated as clearly and definitely as possible".

3. In his letter submitting the plans the architect states: "No parapet has been shown on the approach, in accordance with the understanding that, in order to keep the cost within the appropriation, it was desired that the architectural treatment be confined to the bridge proper, and the treatment of the approaches minimized. It is suggested that iron railings or other inexpensive barriers be provided if and where required for the public safety."

(Signed) W. L. Risk,

Colonel, U. S. Army, Retired.

Two enclosures.

Colonel W. L. Risk,
U. S. Army, Retired,
United States Engineer Office,
Room 305, Southern Building,
Washington, D. C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 5, 1917.

293.6-C

August 15, 1917

General:

The Commission of Fine Arts have carefully considered the design for the memorial stone proposed to be erected on the lot in Arlington Cemetery of the late Captain Mark D. Weed, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, which was transmitted for their action with your letter of August fifteenth last.

It is noted that the dimensions of the proposed monument fall within those prescribed by the regulations of the Department.

The Commission are of opinion that the idea of the design might be carried out by a skillful designer to an acceptable result, but they cannot officially approve the design as submitted to them.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

HRL/pk

3. incl.

The Quartermaster General, U. S. A.,

The War Department.

Your No: 293.6-C

3 Encl. ret'd.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army.

Washington

September 8, 1917

August 15, 1917

295.6-0

Quartermaster General.

Colonel W. W. Harts, U.S.A., Secretary and Executive Officer,
Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, D. C.

Subject: Monument to Captain Mark D. Weed.

1. This office is in receipt of a request from Mrs. Mark D. Weed for authority to erect a monument on the lot of her husband, the late Captain Mark D. Weed, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, in Arlington National Cemetery, the design of the monument, dimensions, etc., being as indicated in the accompanying sketch.

2. As the dimensions of the monument conform to those prescribed in the circular letter of August 5, 1916, approved by the Secretary of War, its erection will be permitted unless otherwise recommended by the Commission. No plans will be permitted on the lot. By authority of the Quartermaster General:

(Signed) O. J. CHARLES

Major, Quartermaster Corps.

HRL/pk
3 incls.